I am astounded that Sinclear Broadcasting is trying to make an in-kind donation to the Bush campaign in the form of one hour of free, prime-time television time without granting equal time to the Kerry campaign. I am more astounded that the FCC has so far chosen not to act to stop this abuse of broadcasting licenses.

Sinclair executives, who have given substantial contributions to the Bush campaign, intend to force their stations to present a partisan attack against Senator John Kerry. Sinclair has acted in partisan ways in the past as well, by refusing to air a television ad of the Democratic National Committee, and when they ordered their stations not to air the ABC News show in which Ted Kopple honored our nation's soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this country in Iraq.

The film Sinclair intends to show is not new and it is not "news". Earlier in its life other major networks refused to show it because it was not balanced but rather a political smear film.

The FCC should stand up to Sinclair's abuse of its broadcast license. Choosing not to act, the FCC risks the appearance of being complicit in this partisan attack, which may lead some to assume that Michael Powell is assisting his father, the Secretary of State for President Bush.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.